



Making History in the Midwest

A Tale of Two History
Harvests

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What is a History Harvest?

- A digital collection that archives and contextualizes material culture that belong with their owners
- A means to “un-ghost” the groups whose history is often hidden or erased from the dominant historical narrative (Wingo/Rondo and Moravec)

“We believe that our **collective history** is more **diverse** and **multi-faceted** than most people give credit for and that most of this history is **not found in archives, historical societies, museums or libraries**, but rather in the stories that ordinary people have to tell from their own experience and in the things - the objects and artifacts - that people keep and collect to tell the story of their lives.”

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <https://historyharvest.unl.edu>

Two History Harvests (No, three, sir!)

IU, take 1: Spring 2019

- Undergraduate-driven research project for ASURE, HIST-A200

IU, take 2: Fall 2020

- Spring 2019 as a jumping-off point
- CRRES, IDAH, HIST-H301

Fall 2020 Longstown

- Jazma Sutton, Chavonté Wright
- Support from IDAH and CRRES



A pink teddy bear

an anonymous participant
An 11 year old pink Teddy Bear. About 12 inches tall. Multicolored strings attached to the ears. Pink and blue patch on top of head. From Phillippines.

Practical Sentimental



Faux Leather Wallet

Eric Ware
A black, faux-leather, bi-fold wallet. The outside face is smooth, while the inside face contains four tiered pockets on each side of the fold to hold business cards, credit cards...

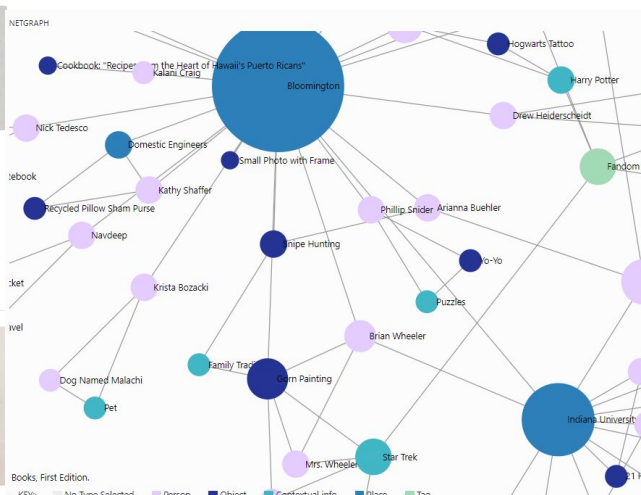
Practical



Wedding Band

Mary Ton
A ring about 7/8" in diameter made out of Damascus steel with wavy patterns.

Sentimental



Why did we want to do one (or three)?

To start somewhere

CRRES

- To develop a small CRRES-based project involving outreach and research
- To connect with Indiana Studies initiatives by highlighting underrepresented histories
- To solidify a long-discussed partnership with IDAH

IDAH

- To test the potential for an undergraduate service-learning digital-history opportunity
- To jumpstart the idea of community-involvement digital projects within the IDAH network
- To sandbox some of the practical and technical considerations that support the first two points

Scenes from a History Harvest



First Thursdays, IU-B, October 2019



Longtown, OH, September 2019

With

- Building trust between residents and institutions
- Establishing a sense of community
- Acknowledging community as equal contributors
- Being flexible
- Listen well, be unbiased, work as one
- Communication between various perspectives



Who is the History Harvest for?

1. Community partners
2. Undergraduate learning
3. Archival capture and posterity
4. Researchers



The technical elements

The major consideration: balancing short-term complexity with long-term sustainability

- Make the most effective use of automation by limited technical staff during project development phase
- Provide easy low-tech access to the entirety of the project team during its development
- Sustain the project with minimal computing needs (staff and hosting) long-term

IUBHistoryHarvest / IUBHistoryHarvest.github.io

<> Code

Issues 0

Pull requests 0

Actions

Projects

Web site for IUB History Harvest

[Manage topics](#)

597 commits

1 branch

0 packages

0 releases

Branch: master

New pull request



szostalomaks Cleaned out files specific to previous History Harvest instance. Now ..

_archiveitems

Cleaned out files specific to previous History Harvest instance

_includes

Item page layout changes

_layouts

no message

_pages

no message

_sass

Initial upload

_stories

Cleaned out files specific to previous History Harvest instance

assets

Cleaned out files specific to previous History Harvest instance

tags

no message

404.html

Initial upload

LICENSE.txt

Initial upload

README.md

Site reupload (v1 with only our stories)

_config.yml

Update _config.yml

changelog.md

Initial upload

favicon.ico

Initial upload

feed.xml

Initial upload

The community elements

CRRES research mission

Bicentennial & Indiana Remixed

- First Thursday a good start, but a long way to go
- Longtown History Harvest as a model for the future
- Digital exhibit to showcase some digital objects, and perhaps some actual ones too
- Another First Thursday History Harvest -- more outreach to communities



IU Bloomington History Harvest

Network analysis to understand the cultural values of self expression

How do the cultural differences of each object affect how they serve as a mode of individual self expression?

The Dorodango collection is a collection of mudballs that were collected by the object's owner over the course of the past 25 years. He teaches the process of creating dorodango as an educational tool in his art classes to help his students learn how nature can be used to create art, to teach them patience, and as a means of relief and comfort. This collection relates to our research question because it is an educational tool, and through learning the student grows, and individual growth is a mode for individual expression. Additionally, because dorodango is used in education, this collection reflects the culture of education in the United States. Vans are an individual statement that l'Esseance wants to include in her life on a daily basis. These shoes bring her some kind of luck, she says whenever she wears them. She relates to how good her days usually are, and on that day when she brought them to the history harvest, she felt that her day was going very well. When looking at when she purchased the shoes, she felt that she had a connection to the shoe right from the store. These shoes are very vibrant with color and have many pops apart of them. I think they add something that some individuals may feel nervous about now-a-days, which is individual expression, especially when it comes that what they are wearing on a daily basis. l'Esseance is a leader in this and really looks to keep her style going, whichever way she feels like it. The Tribal Drawing that the owner plans on getting into a tattoo shows the cultural and historical value of the owners family and heritage through a form of individual self expression. It connects him to his Polynesian roots which is a big aspect of his life. Also, tattoos and other forms of body art are a big source of self expression because it lets you know more about a person through a visual cue.

Network analysis as a way of understanding your research question



Future community considerations

History Harvests should emerge from **community** interest, investment, goals

Our model started with undergraduate-class needs, which worked well for the capture of itinerant 4-year-student history but it felt top-down when we expanded it to campus.

- More outreach to create more community in different spaces on campus
- Identify additional communities in Indiana to do HH's like Longtown

Some faves



Samba shoes



Alebrije cat

**Knitting
supplies**

